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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Takehiro KATA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1722

Application No.: 09/431,154

Examiner: J. MACKEY

Filed: November 1, 1999

Docket No.: 104639

For: VULCANIZING MOLD FOR PNEUMATIC TIRES

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW UNDER MPEP §713.04

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

A personal interview was held with Examiner Mackey on January 13, 2004 in connection with the above-identified application. Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the interview.

During the interview, the distinguishing features of the invention, with respect to the references applied in the June 24, 2003 Office Action, were discussed. The points presented paralleled those found in the Request for Reconsideration filed December 17, 2003.

Specifically, it was discussed that Miyata fails to disclose the simultaneous displacement of all of the upper and lower segments radially inward while the single cam ring remains in direct engagement with the upper and lower tread mold members. Instead, Miyata discloses that the lower sector portion 3b is pushed by the lower actuator portion 4b. Consequently, Miyata fails to disclose a single cam ring that simultaneously displaces all of the upper and lower segments radially inwards. Further, there is no suggestion in the references to modify the respective teachings to render the recited claims obvious. No agreement was reached.

Respectfully submitted,


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JAO:SSK/jfb

Date: January 22, 2004

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